

I would like to comment on BellSouth's request to exclude independent ISPs from access to DSL. I use an independent ISP that provides exemplary DSL service for a very competitive price. They provide great competition to BellSouth's offering, and they have provided many different technologies (wired and unwired) in our area, long before the telephone companies did. We still do not have cable modem service available in our city. Satellite service is a problem due to hilly topography.

With an independent ISP, we have a very competitive market in our area. Although cable modem service is planned, they will have to work very hard to displace my DSL ISP.

The wires that BellSouth uses were paid for by the local rate payers (including myself), run on local right-of-ways from the local government, and should be made available to as many different entities as possible to provide a truly competitive market.

Please don't allow BellSouth to bring a monopoly of Internet service to California.